

could be an example of parental care by the fish. Such attacks by fish are rare. Moreover, the speed of attack and accuracy of hits on target are remarkable. Huntingford (1976) has noted that aggressive behaviour is generally exhibited by male fish. But in this case, the female fish showed aggressive behaviour as it was probably taking care of her fingerlings.

A lot of experience or past memories and learning may have helped the fish to take this bold decision against the Egret (Manning and Dawkins 1995).

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22. FIRST RECORD OF *CLARIAS BATRACHUS* (LINN.) (SILURIFORMES: CLARIIDAE) FROM LAKE SURINSAR (JAMMU AND KASHMIR) INDIA

*Clarias Scopoli* is at present absent from Baluchistan, Iran, and Arabia, but is prolific in Africa, where it is represented by 33 species (Boulenger 1911). During the course of fish collection from Mansar and Surinsar lakes of Jammu Province during 1996-97, several specimens of air-breathing catfish *Clarias batrachus* (Linn.) were obtained by me from Surinsar Lake, a freshwater lake located about 34 km from Jammu city and about 8 km to the west of Mansar Lake. The Surinsar Lake is about 1.5 km long and 0.75 km wide. *Clarias batrachus* (Linn.) is thriving in the lake along with several other teleosts such as *Rasbora rasbora* (Ham.), *Puntius conchonius* (Ham.), *Tor putitora* (Ham.), *Channa orientalis* (Schneider), etc.

As there is no previous record of the occurrence of *Clarias batrachus* from the freshwaters of Jammu

Province of Jammu and Kashmir State (Nath 1989), the present report is a new record. It is noteworthy that *Clarias batrachus* (Linn.) has not so far been recorded from Kashmir Valley either, although partially-digested specimens of the species have been recovered by me from the gut contents of some ichthyophagous birds of Kashmir Valley.

Because of a ban on fishing in Surinsar and Mansar Lakes imposed by the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir, *Clarias batrachus* (Linn.) is thriving very well in Lake Surinsar and specimens measuring 20-25 cm are abundantly found in the littoral region of the lake.

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23. *GLYPTOTHORAX LONAH* (SYKES) — AN ADDITION TO THE ICHTHYOFAUNA OF KERALA

Catfishes of the genus *Glyptothorax* Blyth inhabit foothill rivers and swift mountain streams. These benthic fishes attach themselves to the riverbed substrate by means of a thoracic sucking disc, an adaptive structure. The range of distribution of *Glyptothorax lonah* (Sykes) is Deccan plateau, Godavari and Krishna river systems (Talwar and Jhingran 1991). Silas

(1951b) extended its distribution to the head waters of Cauvery river, Coorg.

There is no record of the occurrence of this catfish in Kerala State to date. Thus the present report of this species is a new record for Kerala. Specimens were collected upstream of the Karappara river, main tributary of Chalakudy river, neighbouring Karapara estate, Nelliampathi, which lies at an altitude of 960 m above msl, during March 1997. Nelliampathi hills are situated at the southern margin of the Palghat Gap. The west flowing Chalakudy river, lies south of the Palghat Gap. This report becomes interesting as this species was previously recorded only from the northern side of Palghat Gap upto Cauvery river system, Coorg dist., Karnataka (Silas 1951b).

TABLE I

SPECIES OF GENUS *GLYPTOTHORAX* BLYTH REPORTED FROM KERALA STATE

Species	Locality	Authors
<i>Glyptothorax madraspatanum</i> (Day)	Travancore	Hora & Law (1941), Silas (1952)
	Anaimalai and Nelliampathi hill ranges	Silas (1951a)
	Bhavani river	Rajan (1955)
	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Kerala part	Easa & Shaji (1997)
<i>Glyptothorax anamalaiensis</i> Silas	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Kerala part	Easa & Shaji (1997)
<i>Glyptothorax annandalei</i> Hora	Silent Valley	Remadevi & Indira (1986)
	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Kerala part	Easa & Shaji 1997
<i>Glyptothorax lonah</i> (Sykes)	Karappara river, Nelliampathi area	New record

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